I John 5:1-13

Review…

- **God is LIGHT – I John 1-2**
- **God is LOVE – I John 3-4**
  - The word LOVE is used more in **I John** – than ANY other book of the Bible…
  - **I John 4:7-21** – uses the word LOVE 29x – more than any other chapter – the LOVE chapter…
  - The key phrase – God is LOVE – meaning LOVE is defined by God…
  - So if we have God in our LIVES – then we will have His LOVE for others…
  - Because people can NOT see God – but they can see His LOVE through our lives!
- **God is LIFE – I John 5**
  - We have seen the God is LIGHT – that shows us we need Jesus…
  - We have seen the God is LOVE – that we receive from Jesus…
  - As we come to the final section – we see God is LIFE – by FAITH in Jesus!

God is LIFE…

- **1st – Obedience to Jesus… vs. 1-5**
  - 1st – Born Again… vs. 1
    - Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God!
    - ANYONE [πᾶς] who by FAITH [present] – believes [πίστις] Jesus is the CHRIST…
    - Jesus is His NAME – [יְהוֹשֻׁעַ] – Yahweh Shua – God is Salvation…
    - Christ is His TITLE – [Χριστός] or [מָשִׁיחַ] – meaning the one called to REDEEMS us…
    - Is BORN [perfect] of God – or we would say BORN [passive] again – **John 3:3**
    - We have already seen – those who are BORN again – do not LIVE in SIN – **I John 3:9**
    - And that those who are BORN again – LOVE others – **I John 4:7**
    - But here we are told HOW to be BORN again – by putting our FAITH in Jesus…
    - This must come FIRST – because until we put our FAITH in Jesus – we CANNOT go any farther!
  - 2nd – Obedience is LOVE… vs. 1-3
    - Everyone who loves [God] who begot - also loves [those] who are begotten of [God]… vs. 1
      - ANYONE [πᾶς] who LOVES God [Father] – the inference is they are BORN again…
      - Will also LOVE [ἀγαπάω] others that are also BORN again!
      - We are to LOVE our brothers and sisters in the LORD…
      - As we have stated before – the MARK of a BELIEVER is to LOVE one another!
      - **John 13:35** – "All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another."
    - By this we know we love the children of God - when we love God and keep His commandments!
      - This is the love of God – that keep His commandments!
      - We KNOW [γινώσκω] we are LOVING [ἀγαπάω] other CHILDREN [τέκνον] of God…
      - When we LOVE [ἀγαπάω] God – and KEEP [present] His COMMANDMENTS…
      - This is the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of God – that we KEEP [present] His COMMANDMENTS…
      - COMMANDMENTS [ἐντολή] – referring to the commands of the LAW!
      - There are 613 COMMANDS in the LAW – 248 positive – and 365 negative…
      - Jesus was asked which COMMAND was the GREATEST – **Matthew 22:36-39**
      - FIRST - LOVE the LORD with all your heart – soul – mind – **Deuteronomy 6:5**
      - SECOND – LOVE your neighbor as yourself – **Leviticus 19:18**
      - We KNOW we are BORN again – when we keep BOTH of these commands…
      - Because LOVING the LORD – and LOVING others – fulfills all the other COMMANDS!
      - **Matthew 22:40** – "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- His commandments are not burdensome!
  - His COMMANDMENTS [ἐντολή] – are not HEAVY [burdensome]
  - If we are HONEST – we might disagree with John on this point…
  - Maybe Christians were different back when John wrote this…
  - Because if he could see who comes to church today – NOT easy to LOVE!
- How to OBEY…
  - Jesus told the disciples – to LOVE Him – meant keep His COMMANDMENTS…
  - **John 14:15** – "If you love Me - keep My commandments [ἐντολή]."
  - But He went on to tell them HOW – to KEEP [present] them…
  - **John 14:16** – "I will pray the Father - and He will give you another Helper."
  - If we are STRUGGLING to LOVE one another…
  - If we find it is easier to be IRRITATED – or IMPATIENT with our brothers and sisters…
  - We are NOT alone – Jesus knew we needed HELP…
  - All we need to do is ASK – and God will give us His SPIRIT so we can LOVE – **Luke 11:13**
  - Only then will we be able to truly agree with Jesus!
  - **Matthew 11:30** – "[His] yoke is easy and [His] burden is light."

o 3rd – FAITH is the KEY… vs. 4-5
- For whatever is born of God overcomes the world!
  - ANYONE [πᾶς] who is BORN [perfect] of God – VICTORY [νίκη] over the WORLD [κόσμος]
  - The WORLD tells us we need to LOVE ourselves – NOT others…
  - If we LOVE others – what benefit does that have for our lives!
  - The WORLD tells us we cannot SEE God – and we are foolish to try and LOVE Him…
  - God probably does not even exists – so why WASTE our lives trying to PLEASE Him!
- And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith!
  - HOW do we have VICTORY [νίκη] over the LIES of the WORLD [κόσμος] – FAITH [πίστις]
  - FAITH is one of those interesting words that it is hard for us to relate to daily life…
  - But a good synonym for faith is TRUST – where are we putting our TRUST!
  - We could put our TRUST in what the WORLD shows us – tell us…
  - But then we would NOT have VICTORY – because we lack FAITH…
  - By definition – FAITH is putting our TRUST in something we CANNOT see!
  - **Hebrews 11:1** - "Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."
- Who is he who overcomes the world - but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God!
  - HOW do we have VICTORY [νίκη] – by putting our FAITH [believe] in Jesus…
  - DEFEAT never comes from a lack of FAITH – we all have FAITH!
  - **Romans 12:3** – "God has dealt to each one a measure of FAITH."
  - But just because I have FAITH I could fly to the moon – that does not mean I can…
  - If we put our FAITH in something that does NOT have the POWER - it does not work!
  - Jesus talked about great FAITH – **Matthew 8:10** – and little FAITH - **Matthew 8:26**
  - That would lead us to believe FAITH is measurable – great or little…
  - But Jesus would clarify when the disciples asked Him to INCREASE our FAITH!
  - **Luke 17:6** – "If you have faith as a mustard seed…"
  - FAITH is not about quantity or quality – it is about WHO we put our TRUST in…
  - We have VICTORY when we are putting our TRUST in Jesus – the SON of God!

- **2ND – EVIDENCE FOR JESUS… VS. 6-11**

o EVIDENCE…
- John told us we must put our FAITH in Jesus in order to have VICTORY…
- But maybe that is just his OPINION – what EVIDENCE did he have to verify what he said…
- John gave us FOUR witnesses – to prove WHY Jesus is one to put our FAITH in…

- WITNESS [μαρτυρία] – to give TESTIMONY – EVIDENCE something is TRUE…
- The Word - in its various forms – is used ELEVEN times in this SECTION alone!

o 1st – On Earth… vs. 6 / 8

- This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ - not just water - but by water and blood!
  - The FIRST evidence of Jesus – is on EARTH – when He came by WATER and BLOOD…
  - There are THREE views on what this might be referring to:
  - FIRST – His BIRTH [there is water and blood in birth] - when God became man – **Isaiah 7:14**
  - SECOND – His DEATH – when Jesus was crucified…
  - A soldier pierced Jesus side with a spear – out came blood and water - **John 19:34**
  - THIRD – His MINISTRY – at the START when Jesus was BAPTIZED in WATER…
  - But not just WATER – also by BLOOD - when Jesus died for the sins of all men – **Luke 22:20**
  - Which one is it – I think it could be referring to all THREE…
  - His BIRTH – His MINISTRY – and His DEATH – all are the EVIDENCE He is our HOPE!
- And it is the Spirit who bears witness - because the Spirit is truth!
  - The SPIRIT also is a WITNESS [μαρτυρία] on EARTH…
  - This may be a reference to the BAPTISM of Jesus – when the SPIRIT came upon Him…
  - **John 1:32** – "John bore witness [μαρτυρία] saying - I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove."
  - But more likely it is talking about the CONVICTION the SPIRIT gives us…
  - **John 16:8** – "He will convict the world of sin - and of righteousness - and of judgment."
  - Because the SPIRIT of God – is THE [ἡ] one and only - TRUTH [ἀλήθεια]
  - The WORLD would love for us to question TRUTH…
  - What is right for you - may not be what is right for me – everything is RELATIVE…
  - Event Pontius Pilate famously said to Jesus – what is TRUTH - **John 18:38**
  - But it does not matter what the WORLD says – they are LIARS – **Romans 3:4**
  - It is the SPIRIT of God – who on guides us in all TRUTH!
  - **John 16:13** – "When… the Spirit of truth has come - He will guide you into all truth."
- There are three that bear witness on earth… vs. 8
  - The Spirit - the water - and the blood - and these three agree as one!
  - In all we have THREE witnesses on EARTH – that prove Jesus is our HOPE…
  - The testimony of WATER and BLOOD – birth – ministry – and death of Jesus…
  - The testimony of the SPIRIT – who is the definition of the TRUTH…
  - And since their TESTIMONIES agree – it is EVIDENCE they are TRUE!
  - **Matthew 18:16 – "**By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."
  - Our FAITH is not based on FICTION or the OPINIONS of men…
  - Our FAITH is founded on the FACTS of the historical birth – life – and death of Jesus…
  - VERIFIED by the work of the Holy SPIRIT in our hearts…
  - All TESTIFYING that what we BELIEVE is the TRUTH!

o 2nd – In Heaven… vs. 7

- For there are three that bear witness in heaven:
  - The SECOND evidence of Jesus – is in HEAVEN – it is the TRINITY…
  - This is a VERY controversial verse – many of your Bibles do NOT even have it…
  - There are TWO main GREEK manuscripts for all modern Bibles…
  - MGNT [oldest] - which is what almost all Bibles are translated from…
  - Texus Receptus [majority] – only the KJV and NKJV are translated from…
  - ONLY the Texus Receptus has this verse in it – it is NOT found in the MGNT!

- The Father - the Word - and the Holy Spirit - and these three are one!

- The WORD [λόγος] – a title given to Jesus by John – **John 1:1**
- The FATHER – SON [λόγος] – and SPIRIT are ONE – the TRINITY…
- And they are the WITNESS in HEAVEN – that Jesus is our HOPE!

▪ The Bible makes it VERY clear – Jesus is God!
- The doctrine of the DEITY of Jesus - is the RED line that cannot be crossed…
- It is what makes a religion that claims to believe in Christ a cult…
- Denying Jesus is God – denying the triune nature of God the Father - Son – Spirit…
- Cults will say they believe in Jesus – but it is NOT the Jesus of the Bible!
- Even if we do NOT believe this VERSE is part of the original text…
- The Bible gives us NUMEROUS other places that confirm the same TRUTH!
- **Romans 9:5** – Eternally blessed GOD / **Isaiah 9:6** – the mighty GOD…
- **John 20:28** – Our Lord and GOD / **I John 5:20** – the True GOD / **John 10:30** – One God
- There is great diversity within the Body of Christ – **I Corinthians 12:27**
- And we can agree to disagree and a VAST collection of non-essentials…
- But we CANNOT disagree on the Trinity - Deity of Jesus Christ – it is THE essential!

o 3rd – The WITNESS of God… vs. 9 / 11

▪ If we receive the witness of men - the witness of God is greater!
- The THIRD evidence of Jesus – is what God SAID…
- If [SINCE] we do receive [indicative] the WITNESS [μαρτυρία] from men…
- Then we should also receive the WITNESS of God – because He is GREATER!
- There is a game we used to play when I was a kid – it was called telephone…
- You would whisper a word to the person next to you – till the word passed down a line…
- Then you would compare and see what word the LAST person heard – NEVER correct!
- We LISTEN to the WORDS of men – that have been passed down the line…
- And we treat them as GOSPEL – even though more often than not they are WRONG…
- How much more should we listen to the WORD the comes from God!
- **Psalm 119:160** – "The entirety of Your word is truth."

▪ For this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son!
- You might ask – WHEN did God give His TESTIMONY for the SON…
- It happened on TWO occasions – at the Baptism of Jesus – **Mark 1:11**
- Then the Father SPOKE again on the mount of Transfiguration – **Matthew 17:5**
- Both times the Father said He was PLEASED [good choice] with His SON…
- What CHOICE did the FATHER make – to send His SON to DIE for our sins…
- On the Mount of Transfiguration He added – HEAR [imperative] Him!

▪ This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life - and this life is in His Son… vs. 11
- This is the WITNESS [μαρτυρία] – that God GAVE [perfect] for Jesus…
- The word WITNESS [noun] and TESTIMONY [verb] are the same word…
- God [Father] – has given [aorist] us eternal LIFE – and this LIFE is only in Jesus…
- There are a lot of different ideas about how to get to HEAVEN…
- The WORLD tries to convince us – ALL roads lead to HEAVEN…
- Partially true – ALL roads lead to the White Throne Judgement – **Revelation 20:11**
- Wide is the path that leads to destruction – many go in by it **-** **Matthew 7:13**
- If all roads led to HEAVEN – then there is no reason to believe in Jesus…
- He suffered and died for no reason – and the Gospel is just news – not GOOD News!
- **Galatians 2:21** – "If we could be saved [another way] - there was no need for Christ to die."

o 4th – Our WITNESS… vs 10

▪ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself!

- The FOURTH evidence of Jesus – is our LIVES…
- Those who BELIEVE [πίστις] in the Son of God – have Jesus inside of them!
- We used to be LOST in the world – living a LIFE dominated by SIN…
- We did things that we would be ashamed to admit now – **Ephesians 2:2-3**
- But when we put our FAITH in Jesus – God came to ABIDE in us – **John 15:4**
- And He CHANGED us – and gave us a TESTIMONY [μαρτυρία] that Jesus is our HOPE!

▪ He who does not believe God has made Him a liar…
- Because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son!
- Those who do not BELIEVE [verb] – do NOT put their FAITH in Jesus…
- Are calling [perfect] God a LIAR – because they REFUSE to BELIEVE His WORD…
- The TESTIMONY [μαρτυρία] that He gave [perfect] of His SON!
- No one will be able to say on the day of JUDGEMENT – I did NOT know…
- God has given plenty of EVIDENCE that the only way to have LIFE – is through Jesus…
- It is NOT that men do not KNOW – it is they do not WANT to BELIEVE…
- They LOVE darkness – therefore they do NOT come to the LIGHT – **John 3:19**
- They would rather call the GOSPEL a LIE – God a LIAR – than to repent and find LIFE!

- **3RD – LIFE FROM JESUS… VS. 12-13**
  - 1st – LIFE… vs. 12
    - He who has the Son has life!
    - Those who BELIEVE – put their FAITH in Jesus – have LIFE…
    - LIFE [ζωή] – 7x just in this chapter – used in TWO ways…
    - We have an abundant LIFE here on this EARTH – full of purpose and peace…
    - **John 10:10** – "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."
    - We also have eternal LIFE with Jesus in FOREVER in HEAVEN…
    - There is NO downside to putting our FAITH in Jesus…
    - It gives us both our best LIFE here – and the hope of eternal LIFE to come!
  - 2nd – DEATH… vs. 12
    - He who does not have the Son of God does not have life!
    - Those who do not BELIEVE – refuse to put their FAITH Jesus – do NOT have LIFE…
    - This is the great LIE – as if somehow LIFE is better in the WORLD…
    - The WORLD has more FUN – the WORLD has no RULES – the WORLD is the BEST…
    - But this is the TRUTH – the WORLD lies – because of who rules over them!
    - **John 10:10** – "The thief does not come except to steal - and to kill - and to destroy."
    - Satan is a THIEF – he comes to steal away the LIFE that God wants to give to us…
    - He does so because he wants to KILL us – literally – he wants us DEAD…
    - He tempts us to live a LIFE of – drugs – alcohol – parties – that will put us in the GRAVE…
    - Because once we are DEAD – we no longer have the choice to call out to Jesus – **Hebrews 9:27**
    - He wants to DESTROY us – eternally separate us from God…
    - This is what the WORLD offers - the opposite of LIFE – DEATH separated from Jesus!
  - 3rd – BELIEVE… vs. 13
    - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God!
      - John did not write to those in the WORLD – they would NOT listen – I **Corinthians 2:14**
      - He is wrote to US – those who have BELIEVE [present] in the NAME of Jesus…
      - Because he wanted us to KNOW…
    - That you may know that you have eternal life!
      - KNOW [εἴδω] - to see KNOW something by SEEING it with our eyes!
      - We CANNOT see HEAVEN – we CANNOT see Jesus…
      - But we can SEE His WORD – and have the confidence that it is TRUE…

- And through His WORD – we SEE – that we already [present] have enteral LIFE!

- That you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God!
  - Because he wanted us to BELIEVE - [last of 7x in this passage]
  - The word CONTINUE – is in *italics* – meaning it is not in the Greek text…
  - But SHOULD be there – because the word BELIEVE [πίστις] is in the PRESENT tense…
  - Putting our FAITH in Jesus – so we can OBEY His COMMANDS…
  - Believing the TESTIMONY of Jesus – so we can have LIFE…
  - Is not about raising our hands – and saying a SINNERS prayer…
  - It is about a LIFE that is FULL of LOVE – a LIFE defined by ABIDING in the SON…
  - A LIFE that shows a lost WORLD – that the answer is in Jesus…
  - A LIFE that gives us the confidence – this is not the END – this is just the beginning!